



Growing Matters

Greetings

One of the many wonderful things about owning a nursery is the opportunity to meet and work with a variety of people and help them select plants that best meet their needs or interests. This past fall I had the pleasure of designing a garden for a couple that plans to transform their city property into a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. Although I was familiar with the program, it was the first time I had designed a garden to meet the requirements of certification. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about this worthwhile initiative.

Even if you are not interested in becoming a certified wildlife habitat, you may find the article below of interest. Learn

steps you can take as an individual to make your garden more sustainable and more inviting to the wildlife that may visit your garden. The rewards for accommodating them will more than make up for the effort.

Our property isn't certified, but we do garden to attract a variety of wildlife. Recently Nicole, now a 5th grader, excitedly called me over to one of the ponds on our property to show me the frog eggs that had been deposited in one of the marginal plants (we had spied the frogs mating earlier). She will observe the life cycle of the frogs, and retain the information much easier than if she had read it in a book. Another season of living and learning begins in the garden.

- Vicky Hilleges

Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat

Creating a wildlife friendly garden isn't difficult. All you need to do is provide elements from each of the following five areas:

1. Provide a food source such as native plants that produce seeds, fruits, nuts, berries or nectar. Go to Pippi's plant listing at www.pippis.net and look for the N icon identifying native plants.
2. A source of water such as a birdbath, pond, water garden or stream. A clean water source is important for drinking, bathing and reproduction.
3. Cover such as thickets, rock piles, and birdhouses provide wildlife with protection

from predators and inclement weather.

4. Places to raise young are a necessity for wildlife. Dense shrubs, vegetation, nesting boxes and ponds all make appropriate homes.

5. Sustainable gardening practices are also an important component of creating wildlife habitat. Mulching gardens to retain moisture and provide a natural weed barrier, composting yard and kitchen scraps, rain gardens and chemical-free fertilizer are all sustainable practices.

For more information on providing wildlife habitat, visit www.nwf.org.

Garden Gate Chat

What is a nice gentle stretch I can do between gardening activities? *A quick way to realign the spine and give your body a gentle massage is to stand with your feet shoulder width apart with your arms relaxed by your sides. Begin to turn your hips from right to left, allowing your arms to swing side to side. Let your arms flap against your body like empty coat sleeves as you pick up the pace. Exhale "Ha" to each side, allowing your head and eyes to turn to follow your hands. Lift the heel of the opposite foot in the direction you are twisting to give the hips more range of motion. Relax your spine and soften your knees.*

Pippi's Plant Spotlight



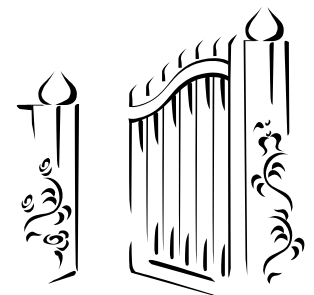
Baptisia australis

a.k.a. Blue False Indigo

2010 Perennial Plant of the Year

Violet-blue, 10-12 inch, lupine-like flowers extend well above clover-like, trifoliate, bluish-green leaves in spring. Flowers give way to inflated seed pods that are useful in arrangements.

- Sun to part shade
- Well drained soil
- Drought tolerant
- 3'-4' Tall
- Deer resistant
- Native
- Zones 3-9





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Gift Certificates Available (good for both plants & yoga)

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat

Five of the Top 10 Native Plants recommended by the National Wildlife Federation for use in the northeast are available at Pippi's and are listed below. For a complete list of plants available at Pippis visit www.pippis.net and go to the *Plant Listings* page.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) Extremely showy in late fall and early winter when covered with bright red fruit that attracts birds.

Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) A many-branched, leafy shrub with spike-like, upright clusters of fragrant white flowers that flower from July to September.

Rough-stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*) Provides a lavish display of golden yellow, heavily branched panicles in fall.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) Cardinal flowers have erect leafy stems topped with clusters of bright red flowers resembling flaming red spires.

Ironweed (*Vernonia*) Fine foliated plant covered with purple flowers in late summer that attract butterflies.

Pippi's Locations & Hours

CNY Regional Market Authority:

Open: May 1st – Oct 16th

Thurs. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Shed A/19&21)

Sat. 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Shed D/10+12)

2100 Park Street
Syracuse, NY

Home Location:

Open: April 21st – Oct. 15th

Wed. & Fri. 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Or By Appointment

12 Sherry Lane
Kirkville, NY 13082

Spring Calendar of Events at Pippi's Kripalu Yoga Spring Series

Tuesdays, 8:30 am – 9:45 am

6 Weeks for \$60 with preregistration

Series I: April 20, 27 & May 4, 11, 18,
& 25

Series II: June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & July 6

Mondays, 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm

4 Weeks for \$40 with preregistration

Series I: April 19 & May 3, 10, & 17
Series II: June 7, 14, 21, & 28

Pippi's Garden Club Seminars

April 26: *Yoga for Gardeners*, 6 pm

May 24: *Designing a Low Maintenance Garden*, 6 pm

Customer Appreciation Day

June 13: *Discounts, Refreshments & Display Gardens*, 10 am - 4 pm



Pippi's will be at the Farmer's Market starting May 1



Member of the Perennial Plant Assoc., NYS Nursery & Landscape Assoc. & Kripalu Yoga Teachers Assoc.